

Appl. No. 10/041,144  
Amdt. Dated November 23, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of August 24, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0247  
Customer No. 26021

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1 and 11 are being amended to improve their form. No new matter is involved.

In Paragraph 5 which begins on page 3 of the Final Office Action of August 24, 2005, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,990,952 of Hamasaki in view of U.S. Patent 4,686,573 of Murayama et al. In Paragraph 7 which begins on page 7 of the Office Action, claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,990,952 of Hamasaki. These rejections are respectfully traversed, particularly in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 11 being made herein.

In Paragraph 3 of the Response to Arguments which begins on page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner sets forth comments with respect to the teachings of Hamasaki '952 and states that the claim does not explicitly recite "information charges that are already accumulated therein in the same stage of the vertical shift registers". However, as amended herein, claims 1 and 11 clearly set forth that, in the second accumulating step, the charges accumulated during the first accumulating step are compounded. This is a principal difference between the present invention and the cited art.

Thus, in claim 1 as amended herein, the method for driving a solid state imaging device as set forth therein includes the steps of accumulating information charges and vertically transferring the information charges. A further step recites "accumulating information charges generated in a plurality of light receiving pixels during a second period in the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each odd line and in the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each even line and compounding the information charges originating from the portions of vertical shift registers corresponding to each even line into the information charges

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that are accumulated during the first period". Claim 1 goes on to recite the further steps of transferring the information charges and driving the horizontal shift register.

Therefore, as so amended, claim 1 defines a method in accordance with the invention which clearly distinguishes patentably over the art. Similar comments apply to claim 11, which as amended herein contains recitations similar to those of amended claim 1.

Claims 1 and 11 as amended herein are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the cited art. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12 and 13 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all of the limitations of claim 1 or claim 11, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art.

Claim 4 defines a method for driving a solid state imaging device and includes a step of "accumulating during a first period information charges generated in light receiving pixels in each odd line and of accumulating during a second period information charges generated in the light receiving pixels in each even line, the second period being shorter than the first period". Therefore, claim 4 is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the cited art. Similar comments apply to claim 14. Claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 15 and 16 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all of the limitations of claim 4 or claim 14, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art.

In conclusion, claims 1-16 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

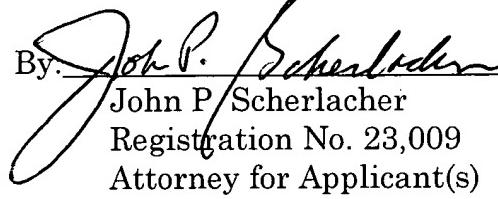
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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: November 23, 2005

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